

Forbes

Discover RH England: Luxury Furniture, Art And Dining In Historic Aynho Park



[RH](#) (formerly Restoration Hardware), the popular upmarket American homewares and furniture brand, has opened its first European venue in Aynho Park, an historic manor house, in the Oxfordshire countryside about an hour outside of London. This marks RH's first venture outside of North America, bringing its luxury products to a European audience. This is to be followed by a store opening in 2025 in the old Abercrombie & Fitch store in Mayfair, London.

August 22, 2024



Aynho Park was a private home, available to hire for fashion shoots and weddings before RH purchased the property in 2021. Now it is open to the public for the first time displaying RH Interiors, Contemporary, Modern and Outdoor collections along with rare art, antiques and artifacts from across the globe. The stunning estate has serious credentials, with grounds by English landscape architect Capability Brown and a wing designed by Sir John Soane. The palatial house was originally built in 1615 but it has been rebuilt, remodelled and embellished many times since including by Soane in 1798. Among England's rare Grade 1 listed buildings that include Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament, Aynho Park is primarily Classical Revival in style.

Contemporary Design in a Historic Manor House



Meticulously preserved, Aynho Park has many of its original features intact, including grand fireplaces, ornate plasterwork and sweeping staircases. All this makes an excellent backdrop for a display of luxurious furniture and homewares. Visitors can wander through the manor's 60 rooms and discover RH's collections in a setting that feels more like a luxurious home than a traditional showroom. This new European flagship is more than just a store; it's a destination, cleverly combining retail with hospitality. After wandering through the rooms, guests can enjoy a number of food and drink options within the venue. There are two lovely dining options: The Loggia, a chic outdoor terrace with comfortable sofa seating and the beautiful restaurant, The Orangery. There's also a juice bar beside The Loggia and a wine lounge indoors with a fine selection of champagnes.



Visitors looking for interior design inspiration can start their visit at RH with a stop in the library to chat with design consultants and leaf through a carefully compiled collection of vintage, contemporary and rare out-of-print books from some of the most influential creators of the last 2,000 years. One of the rare books is a first edition of *De Architectura libri Dece* (*The Ten Books on Architecture*), printed in a modern language, Italian, in 1521. Authored by master Roman architect Vitruvius during the 1st century BC, the treatise has served as the foundational textbook on classical architecture for centuries. It also serves as the pillar of the RH design ethos – a study of balance, symmetry and perfect proportions.



Another highlight of RH England is an exhibition, created in partnership with [Sir John Soane's Museum](#) in London, that highlights the architect's life and works at Aynho and other English country houses, with meticulous reproductions of original drawings, architectural models and artifacts.

Eat and Drink at RH England



[The Orangery](#) at RH England, known as the greenhouse in the mid-18th century is a stunning dining room, featuring plush velvet seating, a wall of towering arched windows and a lighting installation by master glass designer Alison Berger composed of 567 blown-glass pendants. The live-fire restaurant has an appealing menu with standouts like the fried chicken sando, hailed as the best chicken sandwich in the US, a delicious lobster roll, crispy artichokes served with potatoes, rosemary and lemon aioli and the Chinese chicken salad. A grilled avocado, topped with 15 grams of Petrossian Imperial Kaluga Caviar, is also a moreish treat.



At the other end of the house is [The Loggia](#), a lovely open-air restaurant and wine bar offering wood-fired pizzas, charcuterie boards and rustic shared plates. The adjacent Juicery, previously the site of Aynho's kitchen, serves made-to-order fresh juices, craft espresso and grilled baguettes with cultured butter and homemade preserves.

[RH England, The Gallery at Aynho Park](#), Aynho, Banbury
OX17 3BQ

Opening hours: The Gallery: Monday -Saturday 11AM-6PM
Sunday 11AM-5PM

The Orangery and The Loggia: Monday -Saturday 11AM-8PM
Sunday 11AM-5PM